

## Water Transfer Program

### Water Transfer Program Objectives

The purpose of the CALFED Water Transfer Program Element is to support an effective water transfer market by streamlining the transfer process while protecting water rights, environmental conditions and local economies. Objectives of the Water Transfers program include:

- Increasing the availability of existing facilities for water transfers.
- Lowering transactions costs through permit streamlining.
- Increasing the availability of market information to stakeholders and permitting agencies.

**Water Supply and Demand:** The graph at right shows that for average year types, North Coast and Southern California regions will have insufficient water supplies in the future. The graph also shows that the Central Valley has sufficient water to meet consumption, although it is important to note that localized Central Valley water shortages are not reflected in this figure. Information on the difference between supply and demand for different geographic areas can be a useful indicator of the need for and the effectiveness of water transfers. Although water supplies are more than sufficient to meet demand in some regions, other regions have insufficient supplies.

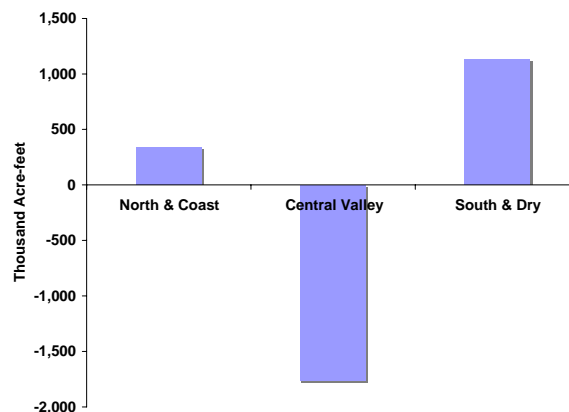
**Volume of Water Transfers:** The amount of water transferred in California is one indicator of water transfer activities. The graph at right shows the acre-feet of water transferred each year since CALFED implementation began. DWR and USBR maintain a database of water transfers which can be accessed through the On-Tap web site:

- <http://ontap.ca.gov/>

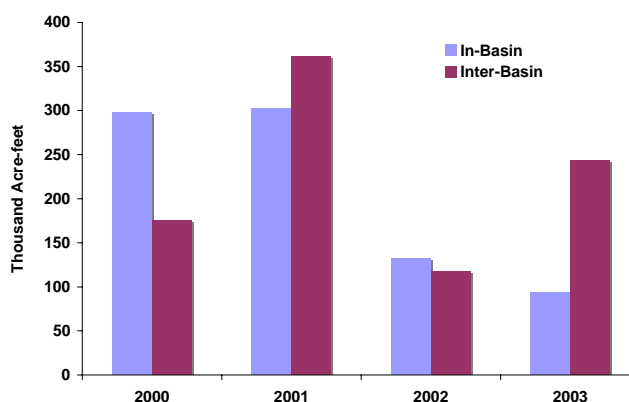
Although information on the volume of water transferred does not by itself portray the effectiveness of water transfers in California, this information can be useful when viewed with other data, such as:

- Number of water transfers
- Source or type of transfers  
e.g., was the water made available through crop idling, crop shifting, groundwater substitution or other means
- Transaction costs
- Permit approval time

Data of this nature is being developed to more fully gauge water transfer effectiveness.



Potential changes in water demand in 2030 based on Bulletin 160. Effective and appropriate water transfers can move water from places of relative surplus to meet unmet demands.










State and Federal agencies track water transfer activity and make it available through the On-Tap website. This information indicates the trends in water market actions.

**Next Steps:** Work on waters transfer performance indicators and performance measures will continue over the next several years. Staff is to make progress through work with the CALFED science program on stakeholders on the following pending indicators:

- Source of transferred water, whether it be crop idling, crop shifting, groundwater substitution, or other source
- Life of the water transfer
- Characteristics of the transfer parties such as agricultural, urban, Sacramento Valley, Coastal, etc.
- Carriage water required for the transfer
- Transaction costs not only the cost of the water but the engineering, legal, and administrative cost of the transfer
- Perceived impacts to third parties and the environment
- Permit approval time and overall transaction time

**Summary of Accomplishments:** Notable accomplishments of the Water Transfer Program over the last four years include:

- Water transfers representing more than 543,085 acre-feet were tracked by CALFED agencies
- 1,017 water transfers reported by On-Tap
- Coordination with Colorado River Contingency Program and State Dry Year Program
- Beginning development of common mitigation measures for agricultural water transfers
- Provision of technical assistance to water transfer proponents
- Maintenance of-Tap Database

Water Transfer Program Budget Summary						
Element Task	Appropriations for FY 00-04			Task Group	FY 00-04	Objectives Supported
	CALFED	Local	Subtotal		Subtotals	
Program Oversight and Coordination	\$ 0.42		\$ 0.42	Science, Management, & Oversight/Coordination	0.42	  
Increase Availability of Existing Facilities for Water Transfers	\$ 0.38		\$ 0.38	Transfers	1.65	
Increase Availability of Market Information to Stakeholder and Permitting Agencies	\$ 0.89		\$ 0.89			
Lower Transaction Costs Through Permit Streamlining	\$ 0.38		\$ 0.38			
<b>Subtotal - Water Transfers</b>			<b>\$ 2.07</b>			
 - Contributes to water supply reliability				 - Contributes to ecosystem objectives		 - Contributes to water quality objectives